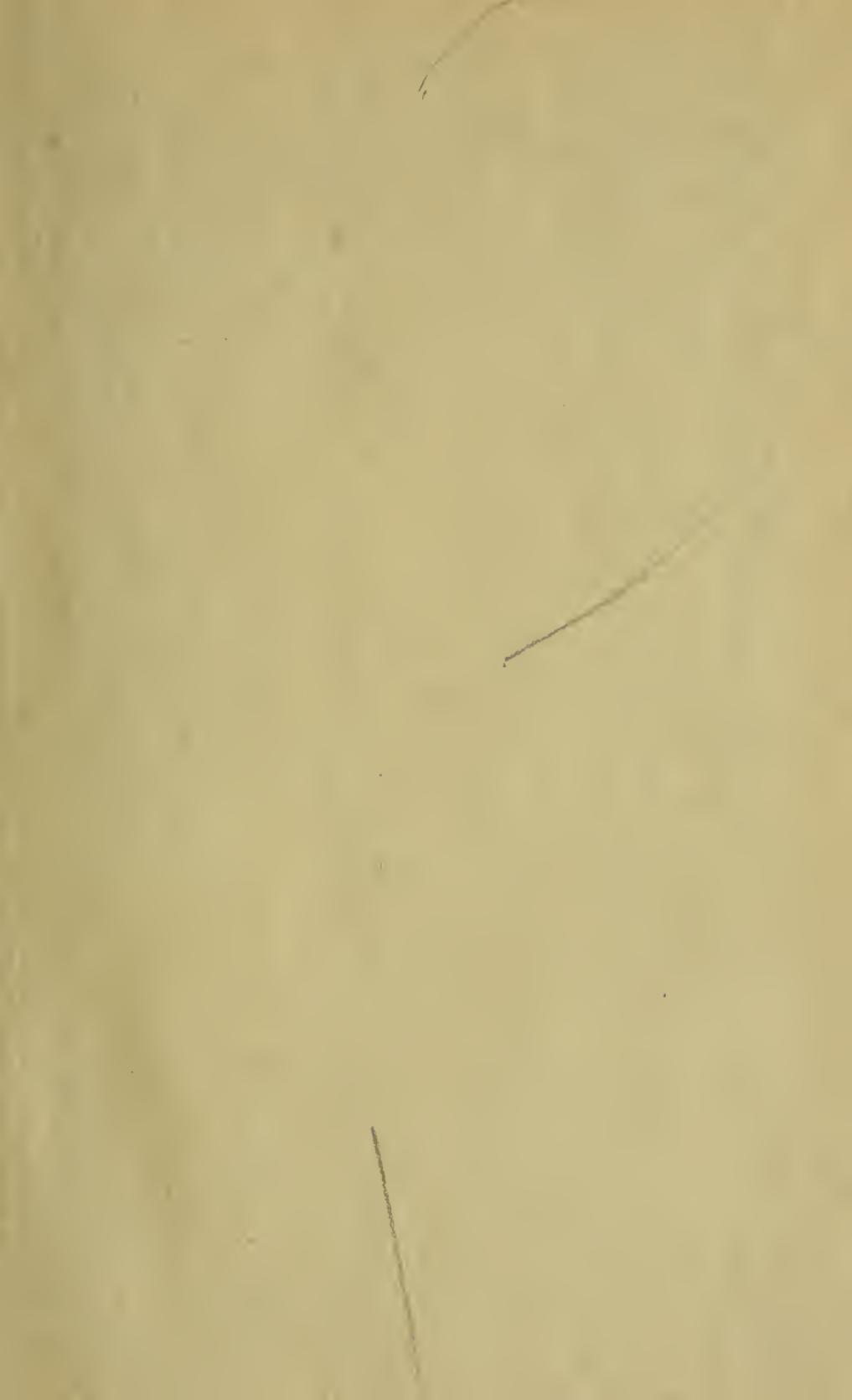


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HISTORY

OF THE

Shepard Family.

—○—

BY CHESTER BROWN.

—○—

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PREFACE.

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A HISTORY OF THE SHEPARD FAMILY.

1894

In writing up the history of the Shepard family, I find myself placed in a very difficult position, on account of it being a few years too late. Some eight or ten years since, a man by the name of E. N. Shepard, in Jersey City, N. J., wrote me several times, saying that he learned by uncle Levi Shepard that I married into the Shepard family, and that I would give him more information than any man then living. He said he was writing up a history of the Shepard family, and wanted I should help him all I could. I spent several days in looking up facts and dates, and answering questions. I kept no copy of the information I sent to him, for I had a promise from him of a copy of his book when published. That is the last I have ever heard of him or his book. I would give dollars now to get the facts and figures I sent to him. But most of those from whom I obtained those facts and figures have since passed away, such as Dea. J. M. Stevens, "Uncle Jim" Smith and wife, and others. What little information I have been able to obtain I am mainly indebted to a sermon preached in the town of Greensboro in 1854, by the Rev. J. P. Stone, on the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the Congregational church, and took in most, if not all, the early settlers of the town. The next information I received, I am indebted to Amasa Scott, of Craftsbury, and to J. O. Cutler, formerly of Greensboro, but now of Northampton, Mass., and Mrs. E. C. Blanchard, of Newark, N. J., and a few others. I have visited seven or eight cemeteries, and taken names and dates from the headstones of all I can find of the Shepard family and their descendants. But most of the information I have picked up as best I could. I have written over seventy-five letters. Not one-half of them have ever been answered. Several have been returned by the postmaster, saying the parties could not be found.

CHESTER BROWN.

EAST HARDWICK, VT., October 30, 1894.

1894. 90

THE HISTORY OF THE SHEPARD FAMILY.

It was not until eight years after the town of Greensboro was granted that the first settlements were commenced.

In 1781, Capt. Nehemiah Loveland, of Peacham, sent a scouting party of four men over the Hazen road. They proceeded as far as the block house on this road in the town of Greensboro, on the west side of Caspian lake (afterwards occupied as a dwelling house by Aaron Shepard). They made this house their headquarters, and in an unguarded hour, when at a distance from the house, they were attacked by a party of Indians. Two of the party were shot down and killed. Their companions made no resistance, were soon led captives to Canada, and confined in Quebec as prisoners. Those killed and scalped were Bliss, of Thetford, and Moses Sleeper, of Newbury.

Some time subsequent they were released by an exchange of prisoners, when they returned to Peacham.

It was not until after their release that the fate of Bliss and Sleeper were known to their friends. A party were immediately sent to Greensboro. They found the remains undisturbed, but in a very loathsome condition. A grave was dug, and without shroud or coffin they were rolled in and buried.

In December, 1788, a meeting of the proprietors was held in Cabot. Timothy Stanley, one of the proprietors, on his journey to attend the meeting, had his limbs so badly frozen that amputation of a part of one foot became necessary. The operation was performed, owing to the want of proper instruments, with mallet and chisel. Uncouth as were the instruments, it is said the operation was really quite successful.

During the following spring, after the meeting of the pro-

prietors in December, the first actual settlement was commenced, as we shall see immediately.

The first settlement in the town of Greensboro, Vt., was in the spring of 1789. In that spring there came from Newbury (then called Coos), Messrs. Ashbel and Aaron Shepard, with their families, consisting of five persons, viz.: Ashbel Shepard and wife, Aaron Shepard, wife and one child. In coming from Cabot the women had to proceed on foot, and all the furniture for the two families was drawn on three hand sleds. They settled in a block house on the Hazen road (built by Gen. Hazen for a fort). This road was commenced by Gen. Bailey in 1776, and continued fifty miles farther north, through the towns of Peacham, Cabot, Walden, Hardwick, Greensboro, Craftsbury, Albany, Lowell and Westfield, by Gen. Hazen, in 1779. Ashbel Shepard settled on what is known as the "Rand farm," on the west side of the lake, and between H. S. Talman's on the south and the stone house on the north. In August, the same year, Aaron Shepard and his family returned to Newbury, leaving his brother Ashbel and wife the only inhabitants of the town of Greensboro, and Mr. Nathan Cutler and family, in Mindon (now Craftsbury), six miles distant, the only white inhabitants of the county of Orleans. During this lonely winter Mr. Shepard drew all his grain from Newbury, more than fifty miles distant, sixteen of which he drew it on a hand sled. He also drew the hay to winter his cow from Black River meadow in Craftsbury, some three or four miles, over snow four feet deep; and at that time his nearest neighbor on the south was Mr. Benj. Webster, in Cabot, some fifteen miles distant. During this season of loneliness, the two families in Greensboro and Mindon were cheered by the arrival, not of the cars, nor of the stage coach, nor yet of chaise, wagon or sleigh, but by a hand sled, drawn by three cheery young men, and bearing upon it a precious burden—a beautiful, healthy young girl of not quite fourteen years. Her name was Mary Gerold. She was a daughter

of Mrs. Cutler, of Mindon. The year before, she was left at Sturbridge, Mass., to attend school. In January, 1790, she was brought by Col. Joseph Scott as far as Ryegate, Vt. Having been detained some two weeks at Ryegate at the house of Esquire Page, she was conveyed to the house of Dea. Elkins in Peacham. After another delay of two weeks, she was enabled to advance a little farther. Aaron Robinson, of Bennington, brought her to the house of Esquire Levensworth, in Dewey's Gore, which is now parts of Danville and Peacham. There she was subject to another ten days' delay, when she came on horseback to the house of Lieutenant Lyford, on Cabot Plain. The next morning she proceeded on her way, as before described, towards Mindon, drawn by Jesse Leavensworth, Josiah Elkins and Obed Cutler, a son of her step-father. The party reached the house of Mr. Shepard, the only house between Cabot and Mindon, about noon. It hardly need be said that Mrs. Shepard, in the absence of her husband after a hand sled load of hay, gave them a hearty welcome and as good a dinner as circumstances would allow.

Cheered and refreshed, the party proceeded on their way, and just as the sun was going down they reached the house of the parents of Obed Cutler and Mary Gerold. For months before this, no female had been seen by Mrs. Shepard or Mrs. Cutler. Who can express the joy of that mother after such a season of loneliness, at such an arrival? Not only the arrival of a fellow creature of her own sex, but of an affectionate daughter. Mr. Stone, in his sermon in 1854, says, "She is even now among us, one of us and known by our children and youth by the endearing title of Grandma'am Stanley." I can well remember Grandma'am Stanley. But she has long since passed away. I have not been able to get the date of her death.

But to return. About the middle of March, 1790, Mrs. Cutler, prompted by a sense of duty as well as desire, visited her neighbor, Mrs. Shepard, making her trip in her

best carriage, the hand sled, and remained with her some little time.

During this visit, on the 25th of March, 1790, Mrs. Shepard became the joyful mother of the first white child born in Greensboro, and probably in the present limits of Orleans County, viz. : William Scott Shepard. I once bought a stove of him since I kept house. The proprietors of the town voted him one hundred acres of land.

William Scott Shepard moved to Wisconsin a good many years since, and has probably long since passed away.

But to return. About this time (March, 1790,) Mr. Aaron Shepard and his family, who had left town in August before, returned, and with them Mr. Horace Shepard and family, who began on what is known as the "Ring" farm, lying on the road leading from the Stone house, known as the Williams farm, to Mr. Cook's. Thus there were three families in town instead of one—all Shepards. At or near the coming of these families came also—some of the way, it is said, on foot, and some of the way on a hand sled—Miss Susan Shepard, a sister of the three brothers, to reside in the family of Ashbel Shepard as helper and nurse. She afterwards married Col. Levi Stevens. The same year came Timothy Stanley, and built a saw-mill at the outlet of the lake. That and one built by Col. Crafts, in Mindon, were the only mills in Orleans county for several years to come. Soon came Mr. Joseph Stanley in the capacity of blacksmith. The next year (1791) came Mr. John Law, Dea. Peleg Hill, Peleg Hill, Jr., and James Hill, with their families, and the 29th of March, 1793, the town was organized, the first town meeting being held at the house of Ashbel Shepard.

On the 25th of July, 1793, the great event of the times happened, no less than the marriage of Mr. Joseph Stanley, of Greensboro, and Miss Mary Gerold, of Mindon, to which all the inhabitants of the town were invited, and to which nearly all attended. As there was no minister in Mindon

or Greensboro, and no qualified justice in Mindon, they were duly joined in matrimony by Timothy Stanley, Esq. The wedding dinner was taken at her mother's (Mrs. Cutler) in Mindon, and then the whole party, on horses procured at Peacham for the occasion, proceeded to Greensboro for the wedding ceremony.

After the ceremony at the house of the groom, the wedding supper was served in front of Judge Stanley's log house. There were present at that wedding twenty-four, besides, perhaps, a few children, this making fifteen families in town, all told.

Mr. Horace Shepard (the grandfather of my wife) died in Hardwick, and a few days since I copied from the grave stone at the Center grave yard (as it is called) the following: "Horice Shepard, died March 2d, 1829, aged 63 years; Mariha, wife of Horice Shepard, died January 17th, 1830, aged 62 years."

This is all on one stone. It stands out of the ground about three feet, and is about twenty inches wide and one and one-half inches thick. Thus far I have been unable to find any record of the death or burial place of either Ashbel or Aaron Shepard, although I have diligently searched several cemeteries in the vicinity.

On the 9th of September, 1740, there was born in Orford, N. H., Susanna Chamberlin. She first married the father of Aaron, Ashbel, and Horace Shepard (as near as I can learn, his second wife) and then married the father of Col. Levi Stevens, and after his death she married James Corlis; and a few days since I read the name of "Susanna Corlis, wife of James Corlis, died October 4th, 1840, aged 100 years and 25 days," on a marble slab in what is called the Lincoln grave yard in Greensboro. She has one granddaughter (the widow of Joseph Scott) now living in North Craftsbury. I well remember her as "Grandma'am Corlis." My wife had two sisters named for her, one named Susan Cham-

berlin, and the other Olive Corlis. Susan died in Nashua, N. H., and Olive in Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Some time previous to the first settlement of the towns of Greensboro and Mindon (Craftsbury), Col. Ebenezer Crafts and Timothy Newell bought the town of Mindon, afterwards named Craftsbury in honor of Col. Crafts; and in the spring of 1789 there came into town six men and one woman, to make their beginnings. Nathan Cutler and his wife, Prudence Scott Cutler, with their three boys, Josiah, Sewell and Joseph, commenced in the wilderness on the Hazen road on the East hill, on the farm afterwards known as the Harriman farm. Col. Crafts commenced on the stream called the Trout Brook, and built a log dam for a saw-mill, and a log house.

Joseph Scott made his beginning on the place afterwards known as the Job Hoyt farm; Dr. Wm. Scott made no pitch there then; John Babcock and Robert Trumbull on the east hill, near Mr. Cutler's. In the fall they all went back to Sturbridge, Mass.; Robert Trumbull to Ryegate, Vt., to his family; Aaron Shepard to Newbury, Vt. That left the Cutler family in Mindon and Ashbel Shepard and wife in Greensboro, six miles apart, the only white settlers in Orleans county. In 1791 these men all came back again, and many more with them, with their families, some of which I will name: Dea. Nehemiah Lyon, Mills Merrifield, Mr. Osmore (Mr. Osmore settled between the two ponds and hence the names of Big and Little Osmore ponds), John Corey, father of John and Amasa Corey, John Jenness, John Hill, Daniel Mason. In 1794 another company came and among them I find the names of French, Hoyt, Wareham and Hiram Mason, A. Nelson, Daniel Davidson, Abijah and Wm. Allen. In 1796 others came, and among them I find the names of Shaw, Seaver, Morse, Roswell Chamberlin, and others. And more came in 1798 and 1800, but as I fail to find any connection between any of them and the Shepards, it is useless to trace them further. But there is one I

wish to mention in particular, and that is Dea. Morse who, for many years since my remembrance, ran a potato distillery on the East Hill, and in my boyhood days I saw one or more drunk almost every day, and sometimes five or six or more in a day. There were two brothers that would go past my father's house on their way to the distillery almost every day, and on their return one or the other was always drunk, sometimes one and sometimes the other; one always sober so as to help the other up. I presume I have seen one of them fall down as many as ten times after coming in sight before he got out of sight in the other direction. These sights all passed away in 1854, when the Maine law was passed in Vermont. But I am wandering.

In March, 1790, the Cutler family got reduced in the provision line to one quart of Indian meal, and the snow was four feet deep, and they were making up their minds that they must starve to death, when Ashbel Shepard, their nearest neighbor, six miles distant, providentially killed a moose, dressed it, and the next morning he took a quarter of the meat on his shoulder and carried it on snowshoes six miles to the Cutler family. Mrs. Cutler met him at the door and said, "Well, I never will give up hope again." That showed what she was thinking about at the time. In my researches I have come across many incidents as thrilling as the above, but as they are not directly connected with the history of the Shepard family, I will not take time and space to relate them here.

I find the children of Horace Shepard to be, Zilphia, born March 21, 1789; Milo, born Nov. 28, 1790; married to Sally Batchelder, April 13, 1817; Jonathan, born April 9, 1792; Permelia, born Oct. 22, 1794; Sally, born July 18 1797; Hannah, born July 17, 1799; Susan, born May 16, 1806; died Aug. 13, 1839; Horace, born May 12, 1809; died April 19, 1812.* Milo Shepard, born Nov. 28, 1790, Sally Batchelder, born Dec. 21, 1790; married April 13, 1817.

A few days since I copied from two marble slabs in the yard at North Craftsbury the following: "Milo Shepard, died April 8, 1859, aged 68 years; Sally Batchelder, wife of Milo Shepard, died November 29, 1855, aged 65 years."

They had eight children, seven girls and one boy, as follows: Calista Webster, born April 10, 1818; married to Chester Brown (the writer of this epistle), November 6, 1843; died September 28, 1876; Louisa L., born November 6, 1819; married Hezekiah Ober, August 11, 1850; died June 5, 1855; Mary Ann, born August 11, 1822; married Hezekiah Ober, June 14, 1848; died August 27, 1849; Harriet Amanda, born March 4, 1824; married Wilbur Fisk Hoyt, March 21, 1849; Olive Corlis, born October 5, 1827; married Truman Sampson, January 15, 1852; died October 27, 1878; Susan Chamberlain, born March 18, 1829; married Charles C. Phelps, December 11, 1849; died January 26, 1882; Martha Mariah, born September 22, 1831; married Jesse Sabin, November 5, 1849; died August 6, 1880; Geo. Franklin, born May 7, 1834. George went to Mansonville, Canada, married, and has passed out of our knowledge.

Since writing the above I have been making more researches, and in the cemetery near Dea. Baker's, in Greensboro, I find on an old double headstone the following inscription: "Ashbel Shepard, died June 4, 1808, aged 45 years; Mary, wife of Ashbel Shepard, died June 9, 1809, aged 46 years." And in the same yard I find on an old stone placed between two granite posts, some four feet apart and three feet wide, the following inscription: "Susan Shepard, wife of Col. Levi Stevens, died September 26, 1802, aged 34 years; Sally, daughter of Col. Levi and Susan Stevens, died November 8, 1794, aged one year; Matilda, daughter of Col. Levi and Susan Stevens, died October 7, 1802, aged 11 years; Mary, daughter of Col. Levi and Susan Stevens, died September 24, 1802, aged 2 years; Loissa, daughter of Col. Levi and Susan Stevens, died September 30, 1802, aged 3

years." So it appears that one daughter died September 24, the mother died September 26, and another daughter died September 30, and still another daughter died October 7—four deaths in one family, all within eleven days.

But so far, with all my searching, I have been unable to find any record of Aaron Shepard's death. Zilphia Shepard married Enoch Shurtliff for his second wife, had one daughter (Eliza Ann), and after Mr. Shurtliff's death she went to Nashua, N. H., with her daughter, and I think she died in Manchester, N. H., somewhere in the sixties. Jonathan Shepard married Lucina Swett, moved to Michigan, raised up a family of several children, buried his wife, came back to Vermont in the fall of 1849, spent the most of the winter of '49 and '50 in my family, married a Miss Maria Smith, returned to Michigan with his new wife sometime in February or March, 1850, and that is the last direct knowledge I ever had of him, but learn that he died many years since. Sally Shepard married a man by the name of Garfield, went west before I became acquainted with the family, and that is all I know of them. Azubah Shepard, daughter of Ashbel Shepard, married Obed Cutler, son of Nathan, of Craftsbury. He was one of the three young men who drew Mary Gerold from Cabot to Craftsbury on a hand sled.

Obed Cutler, son of the first settler of Mindon (Craftsbury), married Azubah Shepard, daughter of Ashbel Shepard, the first settler of Greensboro. Their children were: 1st, Moses Chamberlin, born October 7, 1794, died April 6, 1856; 2d, Marilla, born April 12, 1796; 3d, Susan, born January 1, 1798, married James Smith, died at Craftsbury, February 8, 1892; 4th, Maria, born May 13, 1800, married Ephraim Perrin, died in Stannard, September 24, 1847; 5th, Nathan, born November 6, 1801, died in Greensboro, September 24, 1849; 6th, Branard Bradley (Rev.), born March 6, 1803; 7th, Azubah, born November 8, 1806, married Divine Morse, March 12, 1846, died in Craftsbury,

February 5, 1890; (She had one son, Nathan Cutler Morse, born November 11, 1851. He married my brother's daughter. They are now living in Hardwick village. They have four girls.) 8th, Orrin, born — 1810; 9th, Esther, born September 13, 1812, married Samuel Vance, died in Glover, Vt., June 26, 1863. Orrin Cutler now lives in Barton, Vt.

Permelia Ladd Shepard, second daughter of Horace Shepard, was born October 22, 1794. Some time about 1824 she married Jesse Powers. Mr. Powers died in 1832 and in 1836 she married Mr. Moses Wood and she died in Newark, N. J., in August, 1881. She had three children, two by her first husband—1st, Emeline Cordelia, and 2d, Edwin I. Powers. He married and had three children. The daughter was married in 1844 to Noah F. Blanchard. She is now living in Newark, N. J. She has had eight children. Six of them are now living. I would be glad to give more facts in regard to her children, their births, marriages and the deaths of the two that have died, but I have not been able to obtain them.

The children of Calista W. (Shepard) Brown: 1st, Milo Chester, born February 9, 1845, died February 14, 1845; 2d, Sarah Calista, born October 13, 1846, married Rev. Silas H. Tucker, December 20, 1870; moved to Nebraska December 20, 1871; stayed in Nebraska fifteen years, and returned to Vermont; he is now preaching in Bondville, this State; 3d, Mary Ann Maria, born April 12, 1848, died June 24, 1855; 4th, Charles Henry, born March 2, 1853, married Clara E. Batten, July 7, 1875; (They have three children, one son and two daughters, the oldest born in 1876 and the youngest in 1893. That is all the grandchildren I have.) 5th, Harriet Amanda, born March 20, 1859, married Henry F. Currier, January 1, 1879; Charles lives in Stannard, Vt., and Hattie in East Hardwick; the children were all born in Craftsbury, Vt.

Hannah (Shepard) Carter, born in Greensboro, Vt., July 17, 1799, married Joseph Carter, February 21, 1821. They

have had twelve children as follows: 1st, Eliza E. W., born December 16, 1821, died April 12, 1879; 2d, Amelia A., born March 19, 1824, married David N. Burroughs, June 25, 1842; (She has two children; Horace N., born June 7, 1846; 2d, Minnie E., born July 13, 1865, married Wm. A. Robinson, April 15, 1888; she has one son. Her mother (Amelia) is now a widow, living with her daughter in Boston, and from whom, together with Mrs. Carter, I am indebted for some of the facts obtained from them.) 3d, Horace A., born March 7, 1826, married Mary I. Cregg, April, 1848, died August 20, 1876; 4th and 5th, David and Franklin (twins), born October 11, 1827, both died in their infancy; 6th, Wilbur Fisk, born December 2, 1829, died September 2, 1830; 7th, Charles H., born April 12, 1831, died when about two weeks old; 8th, Artelissa M., born September 2, 1833, died in her twelfth year; 9th, Mary A., born July 30, 1835, married Edward M. Swett, January 6, 1870, now a widow living in Lowell, Mass.; 10th, William C., born March 17, 1837, died in the winter of 1867-8; 11th, Nellie, born August 21, 1840, married Samuel D. Whittemore, June, 1861, died February 22, 1873; 12th, Charles E., born September 12, 1842, married Ella Austin in the winter of 1876.

Louisa Ladd (Shepard) Ober left one son, George Gilman, born in Greensboro, Vt., Nov. 12, 1859.

Mary Ann (Shepard) Ober left one son, Isaac Milo Ober, born at Bellows Falls, Vt., June 11, 1849.

Harriet Amanda (Shepard) Hoyt had two sons, 1st, Levi Scott Hoyt, born in Craftsbury, Vt., Jan. 29, 1851; 2d, Wilber Fisk Hoyt, born at Craftsbury, Sept. 14, 1857; died Oct. 12, 1861. A few days since I copied the following from a fine marble slab in the cemetery at North Craftsbury: "Wilber Fisk, son of W. F. and H. A. Hoyt. Died Oct. 12, 1861, aged 4 years and 25 days." Levi is now living with his parents in Kansas.

Olive Corlis (Shepard) Sampson left four children, 1st,

Truman Milo Sampson, born in Plymouth, Mass., Oct. 31, 1852; 2d, Theodore Franklin Sampson, born in Plymouth, Mass., Oct. 24, 1854; 3d, Ella Ruth Sampson, born in Plymouth, Mass., Dec. 17, 1858; 4th, Effie May Sampson, born in Greensboro, Vt., June 19, 1861. The two boys are now living in Iowa, and the girls in Omaha, Neb.

Susan C. (Shepard) Phelps left two children living and had buried one, 1st, Charles O. Phelps, born in Plymouth, Mass., Dec. 24, 1851; he was married first to Eliza Richardson, Nov. 8, 1875; second, to Flora Perkins Morse, Nov. 15, 1886; he has two sons, 1st, Frank C., born April 27, 1878; 2d, Willie, born April 16, 1881.

Martha Maria (Shepard) Sabin has had four children; 1st, Ephraim B. Sabin, born Nov. 5, 1850, died November, 1855; 2d, May Sabin, born Jan. 25, 1854, married, first, Andrew Lance, April 19, 1878; second, Frank L. Batchelder, Oct. 5, 1886; she has one son, born Nov. 13, 1891.

Susan Chamberlin (Shepard) Phelps left two children, 1st, C. O. Phelps; 2d, Geo. Franklin, born in Nashua, N. H., Oct. 4, 1853; died in Nashua, June 17, 1877; 3d, William Percy, born in Greensboro, Vt., Feb. 10, 1856; married Louisa Idella Brown, Aug. 19, 1876; they have two children, 1st, Geo. Franklin, born Oct. 4, 1877; 2d, Bernice Ursula, born June 4, 1880; both born in Nashua, N. H.

I visited Aunt Hannah Carter, October 24, 1894, and found her general health very good for one of her age, 95 last July. Many a one at 75 is not so smart, and appear to be older than she does. She lives with her daughter (Mrs. Swett) at No. 31 June street, Lowell, Mass. On her last birthday, July 17, 1894, they had an informal gathering at her home, and I copy the following from one of the Lowell dailies:

“A NOBLE OLD LADY.

“Our lowest bow to Mrs. Hannah Carter, of June street, who celebrated her 95th birthday, Tuesday. Her father

was one of the patriots who drove the British and their Hessians out of this country, and made it free; her husband helped drive the redcoats into the sea again in 1812; two of her sons fought to hold together the union their father and grandfather helped make possible. What a glorious thing to look back upon such close association with trying times and noble deeds! Mrs. Carter's blood personifies the spirit of '76, the valor of 1812, the hot patriotism of 1861. We salute her with feelings and esteem almost such as we feel for the flag.

"Mrs. Carter comes to us from the last century, and we hope she may stay with us well into the next. She came into the world when the young and struggling colonies were but a baker's dozen. On her 95th birthday the president of the United States signed the bill that made the number of sovereign states of the union forty-five. Before the close of the century she may see her country the second naval power of the world, feared and respected by all crowned heads whose ancestors conspired at her spoliation.

"It is our hope that Mrs. Carter's closing years may be full of peace and ease. The government now pays her a pension, and we trust that she may draw it for many years to come. It is a distinction for any city to have such a resident, and we, as a part of the body of citizens, are justly proud of her and the family of which she is a part."

I have spent a good part of two days, Oct. 25 and 26, 1894, looking over a large number of books relating to the Shepard family, in the rooms of the "New England Historic Genealogical Society," in Boston. I have traced the Shepards, Sheperds, Shepherds, Shepheirds, Shepheirdes, Shepperds, and several other ways of spelling the name, away back to 1498. And I have found an innumerable number of Shepards, that no man can number, and still I fail to find the names of Ashbel, Aaron or Horace Shepard among them, or any connection between them. Surely "To the making of many books there is no end." This is a task I little dreamed of when I began, or I think I should never have commenced the job.

I find in my researches very many Shepards all over the country, but in most of them I fail to find any connection

between them and the first settlers of Greensboro. And while I fail to find among the collection very many brilliant scholars, I find the Shepards and their descendants to be of full average intellectual capacity, and, as a whole, rather inclined to the moral and religious type. I find that in the organization of the Congregational church in Greensboro in 1804, most, if not all, of the adult members of the Shepard family were among the charter members; and, as far as I can learn, their descendants have mostly belonged to the Congregational or the M. E. Church. My wife's father and mother, as well as my wife and all of her six sisters, belonged to the M. E. Church. Jonathan Shepard was a Universalist minister. But there are exceptions to all rules, some black sheep in all large flocks.

The Shepards and their descendants have not quite all been goody good, and the least said about them the better. But I think, on the whole, they will average morally above the people at large.

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